

Palaquium ellipticum (Dalz.) Baillon, Traite Bot. Med. Phan. 1500, 1884; Lam in Bull. Jard. bot. Bzg, ser. 3, 8:414, 1927; van Royen in Blumea 10(2):509, 1960.

P. ellipticum (Dalz.) Engler, Bot. Jahrb. 12:511, 1890; Brandis, Indian Trees 424, 1906; Gamble, Fl. Madras 4:764, 1921 (2: 537, 1957, rep. ed.); Lam in Bull. Jard. bot. Bzg, ser. 3, 7:107, 258, 1925.

Bassia elliptica Dalzell in Hooker's J. Bot. & Kew Misc. 3:36, 1851; Dalz. & Gibs. Bombay Fl. 139, 1861; Beddome, Fl. Sylv. t. 43, 1869.

Dichopsis elliptica Benthham, Gen. Pl. 2:658, 1876; Clarke in Hook. f. Fl. Br. India 3:542, 1882.

Isonandra acuminata Drury, Useful Indian Pl. 260, 1858.

The type specimen—*Dalzell s. n.* is preserved in K.

GENERAL EDUCATION CENTRE,
M. S. UNIVERSITY OF BARODA,
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March 15, 1973.

G. M. OZA

25. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *SYMPAGIS PETIOLARES* (NEES) BREM. AND *CANSCORA PERFOLIATA* LAMK. ON THE EASTERN GHATS

During the course of our exploration work on the eastern ghats we collected *Sympagis petiolares* (Nees) Brem., and *Canscora perfoliata* Lamk. Their occurrence in these parts drew our attention to their distribution in South India, which is mainly discussed here. The relevant data regarding the distribution of the plants were collected from Central National Herbarium, Calcutta, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, and Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore. The herbarium sheets are deposited at Jawahar Bharati Herbarium, Kavali.

Sympagis petiolares (Nees) Brem. in Mat. Mon. Strobilanthinac 255, 1944. *Strobilanthes petiolares* Ness in DC. Prodr. 11:189, 1947, (pro-parte); Fl. Brit. India 4:458, 1855.

Under shrubs, 60-90 cm tall, *Leaves* 3-11 × 1.5-6 cm, ovate, serrate, main nerves 7-8 pairs, acuminate at both ends. *Petioles* 1-4 cm long. *Inflorescence* 6-15 cm long, interrupted, spikes or leafy panicles, terminal or from upper axils. *Flowers* 2.2-2.5 cm long, ventricose, blue. *Capsules* 6-7 mm long, oblong, glabrous when mature. *Seeds* 4, 1-1.5 mm across, hairy.

Common and abundant on hill slopes, scattered or in mixed stands among large bushes. The plants are eye catching by their beautiful

blue masses of flowers. It has been collected from Udayagiri hills on the eastern ghats (A.P.).

The identity of this plant is confirmed by the courtesy of the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta.

The herbarium specimens examined: Udayagiri: BS 4308, 30-1-'72. DISTRIBUTION: *Assam*: Mawsami, Sonapur, 27/3 mile from Shillong to Cherrapunji, Khasia and Jaintia hills. *W. Bengal*: Kurseong, Darjeeling 3500' alt. *Sikkim*: Sitong 5000', Rungli 4000'. *Bhutan*. **Andhra Pradesh*: Udayagiri (Author's collection).

From the available data on the distribution of this plant it is a new record for south India.

Canscora perfoliata Lamk. *Encycl. Method.* 1:601, 1783; *Fl. Brit. Ind.* 4:104, 1885; *Fl. Pres. Madras*, 2:618, 1957 (Rep. ed.). *C. grandiflora* Wt. *Icon. t.* 1326.

An erect herb, 30-45 cm tall. *Stems* 4-angular, winged. *Leaves* lax, 2-2.5 \times 0.7-0.8 cm, oblong or oblong-lanceolate, acute at both ends, glabrous, 3-nerved, sessile. *Inflorescence* dichasial cymes, terminal. *Bracts* of inflorescence 1-1.5 \times 0.7-1 cm, perfoliate, orbicular-elliptic. *Flowers* 1.4-1.6 cm long, bright rose, calyx 1-1.2 cm long winged; pedicels 0.5-1.5 cm long, winged. *Capsules* 6-7 mm long.

Rare in the undergrowth, under cool and shady conditions.

The identification of this plant is confirmed by matching the herbarium sheets with those at Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore by one of us (B. Suryanarayana).

The herbarium specimens examined: Venkatagiri hills: BS 3901, 26-12-'70; Udayagiri hills: BS 4333, 30-1-'72.

DISTRIBUTION: From Bombay to Travancore (Kerala) up to 3500' alt. *Kerala*: (Travancore), Malabar, Wynaad. *Tamil Nadu*: Coimbatore. *Karnataka*: South Canara, North Canara. *Andhra Pradesh*: Nellore District: Venkatagiri and Udayagiri (Authors' collections).

Though the plant is recorded to occur widely in south India, it is interesting to note that, it is hitherto reported only from the western side of Deccan. Our collections are the first report for the entire belt of eastern part of the peninsula.

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giri under College Science Improvement Programme (Co SIP).

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,

JAWAHAR BHARATI,

KAVALI, (A.P.),

March 15, 1973.

B. SURYANARAYANA

D. RADHAKRISHNA MURTHY

26. *CHENOPODIUM AMBROSIOIDES* LINN. (CHENOPOD-
ACEAE) — A NEW RECORD FOR CHAMOLI DISTRICT IN
WESTERN HIMALAYAS

Chenopodium ambrosioides Linn. *C. vulpinum* Wall. Cat. 695 B. is characterized by strong unpleasant aromatic odour and long axillary spikes of pale green flowers. Distributed mainly in Bengal, Sylhet, Western Ghats and the Deccan. Raizada (1931)¹ recorded it for the first time as a weed of waste places in and around Dehradun of the Upper Gangetic Plain.

During botanical explorations of the district, I collected this species near Palwara (140 m) in the vicinity of Hampur village at the border of cultivated fields (23.4.71, *Nautiyal* 71). The species appears to be recently introduced into the area.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY,

MEERUT UNIVERSITY,

MEERUT,

April 30, 1973.

K. N. NAUTIYAL

27. BOTANICAL IDENTITY OF 'CENTURY PLANT' IN
WESTERN INDIA

(With a photograph)

For nearly one hundred years, Indian botanists have identified the naturalised American aloe, popularly known as 'century plant', occurring in Western India as *Agave americana* Linn. The note attempts to bring to light the position of the Indian literature on the subject.

Th. Cooke (1908) in his Fl. Pres. Bombay separates *Agave americana* Linn. and *A. vera-cruz* Mill. on the basis of neck of leaf sharply constricted and neck of leaf hardly constricted respectively. He listed

¹ RAIZADA, M. B. (1931): Contribution to Duthie's Flora of the Upper Gangetic Plain from the neighbourhood of Dehra Dun. *J. Indian bot. Soc.* 10:155-58.